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Title: Need for Central intervention to prevent the economic blockade on National Highways No. 39 and 53 in Manipur by All Naga Students Association.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (INNER MANIPUR): Yet another month-long economic blockade has been imposed on the only two lifelines of Manipur: NH-39 and NH-53 since June 21, 2005 by the All Naga Students Association, Manipur (ANSAM). During this period, the people of Manipur were suffering like anything and the suffering was all the more for our brethren in the hill districts of the State. The prices of the essential commodities rose sky high. The essential commodities were not available in the market. Already the State has been suffering a lot.

Whatever might be the reason, every issue can be resolved amicably through dialogue. Offer of dialogue by the State Government being not accepted, the blockade continues.

This situation shall not be allowed to continue and we should not be subjected to this kind of treatment for no fault of ours.

In such a scenario, I urge upon the Union Government to step in and intervene immediately and help the State Government to resolve the stalemate in the interest of all concerned. These NHs need to be fully protected. Let us create NHs protection forces for these National Highways and prevent such frequent economic blockades in the region for all time to come.

16.00 hrs.